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Item 18
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

East Timor

Rapporteur: Fayssal **Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic)

1. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2002, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2002/L.2), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up the question of East Timor as a separate item and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

2. The Special Committee considered the item at its 2nd meeting, on 28 March, and had before it a draft resolution entitled "Question of East Timor" (A/AC.109/2002/L.3), submitted by the Chairman on behalf of the members of the Special Committee.

3. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2002/L.3 by consensus.

4. The Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

Question of East Timor

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14

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December 1960, as well as Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and all other United Nations resolutions relating to the question of East Timor,

Recalling also the mandate of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling further the Agreement of 5 May 1999 between the Governments of Indonesia and Portugal and the Secretary-General on the question of East Timor regarding the modalities for the popular consultation of the East Timorese,[1] and taking note of its outcome and the process of transition, under the authority of the United Nations, towards independence,

Taking note of the subsequent recommendation by the Constituent Assembly of East Timor that 20 May 2002 be the date for the official transfer of the powers of sovereignty from the United Nations to the East Timor government institutions,

Mindful of the statement by the President of the Security Council of 31 October 2001,[2]

1. *Recalls* the important role played for many years by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in promoting the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in relation to East Timor;

2. *Welcomes* the progress made and the achievements that have taken place in East Timor, and commends the Secretary-General and the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor, under the leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for their efforts to assist the Territory during its transition to independence;

3. *Also welcomes* the forthcoming official transfer of power from the United Nations to the East Timor government institutions, as recommended by the Constituent Assembly of East Timor;

4. *Decides* to remove East Timor from the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories upon its accession to independence.

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[1] A/53/951-S/1999/513, annex II.

[2] S/PRST/2001/32.